

**INDIANA CIVIL RIGHTS
COMMISSION & FAIR HOUSING
TASK FORCE**



The Indiana Civil Rights Commission (ICRC) for more than 40 years has served as the protector to those who may have experienced challenges of discrimination in our state.

Since its founding in 1961, the ICRC protects Indiana residents and citizens from discrimination in areas of employment, real estate, access to public accommodation and conveniences, credit and education on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disabilities, ancestry, housing and familial status.

The Indiana Fair Housing Task Force (IFHTF) was created in 1995, for the purpose of overcoming the impediments to fair housing. The Task Force, comprised of government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and other fair housing entities are committed to educating housing consumers and providers about fair housing rights and responsibilities. The Task Force meets regularly to discuss and implement plans to further its mission through the pooling of its resources.



The ICRC and the IFHTF have accepted the challenge to provide quality service in an expeditious manner and will maintain a consistent level of excellence as we continue to serve the citizens of the great State of Indiana.

Sandra D. Leek, Executive Director

INDIANA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
100 N SENATE AVENUE, RM. N103
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2255
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



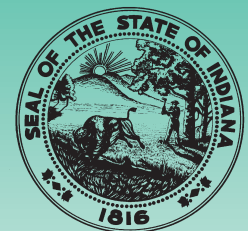
**INDIANA
CIVIL RIGHTS
COMMISSION**

**INDIANA FAIR
HOUSING TASK FORCE**

**TESTER
PROGRAM**

**in
INDIANA**

**VALUE INFORMATION
INSIDE**



SANDRA D. LEEK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Morality cannot be legislated,
but behavior can be regulated."

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



ICRC / FIGHT TESTER PROGRAM

Our Vision is to develop and implement a testing program designed to uncover patterns of discrimination.

Our Mission is to recruit and train testers to be used as a tool to detect unequal treatment.

Our Role is to investigate and enforce fair housing complaints and to educate the public, encouraging everyone to take responsibility and ownership of discrimination problems.

Our Values are to be committed in providing consistently excellent service to our complainants and respondents, and to provide consistently excellent education, outreach and new perspectives in combating housing discrimination.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT TESTING!

Q: What is Testing All About

A: Testing is a controlled method to determine differential quality, content, and



quantity of information and services given protected classes under the civil rights laws.

Investigative tests collect evidence in connection with a complaint filed by an aggrieved party. **Survey tests** collect evidence in situations where there is no specific complaining or aggrieved party, but where information about sales, rental, lending or appraisal practices are desired.

Q: Who Are Testers?

A: Testers are trained individuals who simulate the circumstances of alleged discriminatory treatment. Their job is to observe what occurs and record their experiences. It is the policy of ICRC to recruit tester trainees from a wide variety of backgrounds, including men and women of all ages, physical abilities, and cultural and ethnic backgrounds, races and national origins.

Q: What is Tester Training?

A: Since the tester program is a vital part of the litigation process, a comprehensive training program is provided for each tester. Evidence secured by testers may impact greatly upon the outcome of a court case. In some instances, the credibility of the tester may be questioned. The validity of the evidence *will not be weakened if the tester has received adequate training.*

Q: Is Testing "Entrapment?"

R: Testing is not entrapment. In discrimination cases relating to housing, the U.S. Supreme Court in Havens Realty Corp. Vs. Coleman, 455 U.S. 363 (1982), held that the Fair Housing Act conferred a statutory right "to truthful information about available housing." This right is violated when a minority tester is given incomplete and inaccurate information. This decision allows testers to join bona fide home seekers in seeking damages and injunctive relief for their own injuries. This same may apply in lending and insurance discrimination.

Q: Where Can I Go To Sign Up to Become a Tester?

A: Several Human Rights Commissions throughout Indiana are training satellites for tester training and volunteer coordination.

You can call your local human rights organization for more information. You can also call the Indiana Civil Rights Commission for more information or to volunteer.



If you feel you have been a victim of discrimination contact:

YOUR LOCAL HUMAN RELATION COMMISSION

or

HUD INDIANAPOLIS OFFICE

151 North Delaware, Suite 1200
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

or

INDIANA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

100 North Senate Avenue, N103
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(327) 232-2600

Toll Free: (800) 628-2909
Hearing Impaired: (317) 743-3333
Fax: (317) 232-6580
www.in.gov/icrc/

FRANK O'BANNON
Governor of Indiana

ALPHA BLACKBURN
Chairperson

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